

Book Group Kit Collection

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New Titles in the Collection — Fall 2015

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***All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr**

A blind French girl on the run from the German occupation and a German orphan-turned-Resistance tracker struggle with their respective beliefs after meeting on the Brittany coast in the midst of World War II. 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Historical Fiction. 531 pages.

***The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz**

Oscar is a sweet but disastrously overweight ghetto nerd who—from the New Jersey home he shares with his old world mother and rebellious sister—dreams of becoming the Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien and, most of all, finding love. But Oscar may never get what he wants. Blame the fukú—a curse that has haunted Oscar's family for generations, following them on their epic journey from Santo Domingo to the USA. 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. 2008 National Book Critics Circle Award. Fiction. 339 pages.

***Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng**

A teenage girl goes missing and is later found to have drowned in a nearby lake, and suddenly a once tight-knit family unravels in unexpected ways. As the daughter of a college professor and his stay-at-home wife in a small Ohio town in the 1970s, Lydia Lee is already unwittingly part of the greater societal changes going on all around her. But Lydia suffers from pressure that has nothing to do with tuning out and turning on. Her father is an American born of first-generation Chinese immigrants, and his ethnicity, and hers, make them conspicuous in any setting. Her mother is white, and their interracial marriage raises eyebrows and some intrusive charges of miscegenation. Fiction. 326 pages.

***Ghettoside: A True Story of Murder in America* by Jill Leovy**

A kaleidoscopic story of the quintessential, but mostly ignored, American murder—a “ghettoside” killing, one young black man slaying another—and a brilliant and driven cadre of detectives whose creed is to pursue justice for forgotten victims at all costs. *Ghettoside* is a fast-paced narrative of a devastating crime, an intimate portrait of detectives and a community bonded in tragedy, and a surprising new lens into the great subject of why murder happens in our cities—and how the epidemic of killings might yet be stopped. Nonfiction. 366 pages.

***The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd**

Hetty “Handful” Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke's daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women. The novel is set in motion on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership of ten year old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their remarkable journeys over the next thirty five

years, as both strive for a life of their own, dramatically shaping each other's destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement and the uneasy ways of love. Fiction. 258 pages.

A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman

Ove is a grumble Gus of the first degree. Rules are made to be followed, signs are meant to be obeyed, and don't even get him started about computers and mobile phones. In truth, Ove has been this way his whole life, but he's gotten worse in the last four years since his wife, Sonia, died, taking with her all the color in a world Ove sees as black-and-white. Ove has decided life without Sonia is not worth living and plans to join her in the next world. But a young couple and their two children (a third is on the way) move in next door, his oldest friend and most feared enemy is about to be forcibly removed to a nursing home, and a street-scarred cat insinuates itself into his life. Suddenly, Ove's suicide plans get delayed as he helps solve neighborly crises large and small. Fiction. 337 pages.

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

In early nineteenth-century England, a spirited young woman copes with the suit of a snobbish gentleman, as well as the romantic entanglements of her four sisters. Classic Fiction. 435 pages.

Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel

Examines the collapse of civilization after a deadly flu wipes out most of the world's population. Moving gracefully from the first days of the plague to years before it and decades after, Mandel anchors the story to Arthur Leander, a famous actor who dies of a heart attack while playing King Lear on stage. We see glimpses of Arthur's life years before his passing: his doomed relationship with his first wife, the exploitation of an old friendship, his failings as a father. And then we follow characters whose lives Arthur touched in some way: the paramedic who tried to save him, his second ex-wife and their damaged son, the child actress who joins a traveling theater troupe-cum-orchestra. In this postpandemic time, people live in gas stations and motels, curate museums filled with cell phones and car engines, and treasure tabloids and comic books. Science Fiction. 333 pages.

The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie by Alan Bradley

It is the summer of 1950—and at the once-grand mansion of Buckshaw, young Flavia de Luce, an aspiring chemist with a passion for poison, is intrigued by a series of inexplicable events: A dead bird is found on the doorstep, a postage stamp bizarrely pinned to its beak. Then, hours later, Flavia finds a man lying in the cucumber patch and watches him as he takes his dying breath. For Flavia, who is both appalled and delighted, life begins in earnest when murder comes to Buckshaw. "I wish I could say I was afraid, but I wasn't. Quite the contrary. This was by far the most interesting thing that had ever happened to me in my entire life." Mystery. 373 pages.

Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher

Clay Jensen returns home from school to find a strange package with his name on it lying on his porch. Inside he discovers several cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker—his classmate and crush—who committed suicide two weeks earlier. Hannah's voice tells him that there are thirteen reasons why she decided to end her life. Clay is one of them. If he listens, he'll find out why. Young Adult Fiction. 288 pages.

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Set in the small Southern town of Maycomb, Alabama, during the Depression, *To Kill a Mockingbird* follows three years in the life of 8-year-old Scout Finch, her brother, Jem, and their father, Atticus--three years punctuated by the arrest and eventual trial of a young black man accused of raping a white woman. Though her story explores big themes, Harper Lee chooses to tell it through the eyes of a child. The result is a tough and tender novel of race, class, justice, and the pain of growing up. 1961 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Classic Fiction. 336 pages.

The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl
by Timothy Egan

The dust storms that terrorized America's High Plains in the darkest years of the Depression were like nothing ever seen before or since, and the stories of the people that held on have never been fully told. Pulitzer Prizewinning New York Times journalist and author Timothy Egan follows a half-dozen families and their communities through the rise and fall of the region, going from sod homes to new framed houses to huddling in basements with the windows sealed by damp sheets in a futile effort to keep the dust out. Egan tells a story of endurance and heroism against the backdrop of the Great Depression. Nonfiction. 340 pages.

Older Titles in the Collection — Fall 2015

Access complete descriptions at:

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Fiction

The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared by Jonas Jonasson – 384 pages

The Abstinence Teacher by Tom Perrotta – 358 pages

The Age of Miracles by Karen Thompson Walker – 284 pages

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho – 197 pages

The Almost Moon by Alice Sebold – 291 pages

The Appeal by John Grisham – 358 pages

Arcadia by Lauren Groff – 298 pages

The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein – 321 pages

Astonish Me by Maggie Shipstead – 253 pages

The Aviator's Wife by Melanie Benjamin – 402 pages

The Barbarian Nurseries by Hector Tobar – 422 pages

The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver – 232 pages

Bee Season by Myla Goldberg – 275 pages

Bel Canto by Ann Patchett – 318 pages

Beautiful Ruins by Jess Walter – 337 pages

Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk by Ben Fountain – 307 pages

The Blind Assassin by Margaret Atwood – 521 pages

The Book of Ruth by Jane Hamilton – 328 pages

Bridge of Sighs by Richard Russo – 641 pages

The Corrections by Jonathan Franzen – 566 pages

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon – 226 pages

Dark Places by Gillian Flynn – 349 pages

The Devil Wears Prada by Lauren Weisberger – 360 pages
The Dinner by Herman Koch – 292 pages
The Divorce Papers by Susan Rieger – 461 pages
The Dogs of Babel by Carolyn Parkhurst – 264 pages
The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery – 325 pages
Empire Falls by Richard Russo – 483 pages
The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom – 196 pages
For One More Day by Mitch Albom – 197 pages
Freedom by Jonathan Franzen – 562 pages
Gilead by Marilynne Robinson – 247 pages
The Golem and the Jinni by Helene Wecker – 486 pages
Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn – 419 pages
Half Broke Horses by Jeannette Walls – 272 pages
The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood – 311 pages
A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius by Dave Eggers – 437 pages
Helen of Pasadena by Lian Dolan – 304 pages
The Help by Kathryn Stockett – 451 pages
The History of Love by Nicole Krauss – 252 pages
The Hours by Michael Cunningham – 229 pages
Housekeeping by Marilynne Robinson – 219 pages
The House of the Spirits by Isabel Allende – 433 pages
The Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty – 445 pages
The Infatuations by Javier Marías – 337 pages
The Jane Austen Book Club by Karen Joy Fowler – 288 pages
The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh – 334 pages
Life of Pi by Yann Martel – 326 pages
The Light Between Oceans by M.L. Stedman – 345 pages
Like Water for Chocolate by Laura Esquivel – 245 pages
Little Bee by Chris Cleave – 271 pages
The Lost Symbol by Dan Brown – 509 pages
The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold – 328 pages
Lying Awake by Mark Salzman – 181 pages
Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson – 368 pages
A Map of the World by Jane Hamilton – 389 pages
The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards – 401 pages

The Mermaid Chair by Sue Monk Kidd – 335 pages
Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides – 529 pages
Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore by Robin Sloan – 288 pages
The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern – 516 pages
Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout – 270 pages
One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez – 458 pages
The Orphan Master's Son by Adam Johnson – 456 pages
Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline – 273 pages
Out Stealing Horses by Per Petterson – 238 pages
The Paris Wife by Paula McLain – 335 pages
The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake by Aimee Bender – 292 pages
Peace Like a River by Leif Enger – 312 pages
Plainsong by Kent Haruf – 301 pages
Playing for Pizza by John Grisham – 262 pages
The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver – 546 pages
Prodigal Summer by Barbara Kingsolver – 444 pages
A Reliable Wife by Robert Goolrick – 305 pages
The Road by Cormac McCarthy – 287 pages
Room by Emma Donoghue – 321 pages
The Rosie Project by Gaeme Simsion – 295 pages
The Round House by Louise Erdrich – 321 pages
The Secret History by Donna Tartt -- 559 pages
The Sense of an Ending by Julian Barnes – 163 pages
The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafón – 486 pages
The Shipping News by Annie Proulx – 337 pages
The Signature of All Things by Elizabeth Gilbert – 501 pages
The Silent Wife by A. S. A. Harrison – 326 pages
The Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey – 391 pages
The Soloist by Mark Salzman – 284 pages
State of Wonder by Ann Patchett – 353 pages
Stones from the River by Ursula Hegi – 214 pages
The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski – 566 pages
Swamplandia by Karen Russell – 400 pages
A Tale for the Time Being by Ruth Ozeki – 422 pages
Tell the Wolves I'm Home by Carol Rifka Brunt – 360 pages

This is Where I Leave You by Jonathan Tropper – 339 pages
Three Junes by Julia Glass – 353 pages
The Tiger's Wife by Téa Obreht – 353 pages
The Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger – 546 pages
The Tortilla Curtain by T.C. Boyle – 355 pages
The Uncommon Reader by Alan Bennett – 120 pages
A Visit from the Goon Squad by Jennifer Egan – 340 pages
Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen – 350 pages
We Were the Mulvaney's by Joyce Carol Oates – 454 pages
Where'd You Go, Bernadette by Maria Semple – 330 pages
Where the Heart Is by Billie Letts – 376 pages
White Oleander by Janet Fitch – 446 pages
Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West by Gregory Maguire – 409 pages
The Winter People by Jennifer McMahon – 382 pages
Zeitoun by Dave Eggers – 337 pages

Historical Fiction

Ahab's Wife by Sena Jeter Naslund – 668 pages
Alias Grace by Margaret Atwood – 468 pages
Atonement by Ian McEwan – 351 pages
The Birth House by Ami McKay – 385 pages
The Birth of Venus by Sarah Dunant – 403 pages
Cane River by Lalita Tademy – 418 pages
Daughter of Fortune by Isabel Allende – 399 pages
The Distant Land of My Father by Bo Caldwell – 378 pages
Drowning Ruth by Christina Schwarz – 338 pages
Fall on Your Knees by Ann-Marie MacDonald – 508 pages
Girl with A Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier – 233 pages
The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Burrows – 290 pages
Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford – 290 pages
In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez – 325 pages
Is This Tomorrow: A Novel by Caroline Leavitt – 360 pages
The Kitchen House by Kathleen Grissom – 368 pages
The Known World by Edward P. Jones – 388 pages

Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel García Márquez – 348 pages
Loving Frank by Nancy Horan – 377 pages
March by Geraldine Brooks – 280 pages
Mother of Pearl by Melinda Haynes – 466 pages
The Other Boleyn Girl by Philippa Gregory – 664 pages
People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks – 372 pages
The Piano Teacher by Janice Lee – 328 pages
The Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett – 973 pages
The Plot Against America by Phillip Roth – 391 pages
Portrait in Sepia by Isabel Allende – 304 pages
The Postmistress by Sarah Blake – 371 pages
The Reader by Bernhard Schlink – 281 pages
The Red Tent by Anita Diamant – 321 pages
The Rules of Civility by Amor Towles – 335 pages
Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosney – 293 pages
The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd – 302 pages
Shanghai Girls by Lisa See – 314 pages
Snow Falling on Cedars by David Guterson – 460 pages
The Valley of Amazement by Amy Tan – 589 pages
When the Emperor Was Divine by Julie Otsuka – 144 pages
Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks – 308 pages
Zorro by Isabel Allende – 416 pages

Multicultural Fiction

Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress by Sijie Dai – 184 pages
The Bonesetter's Daughter by Amy Tan – 353 pages
The Book of Unknown Americans by Cristina Henríquez – 289 pages
Buddha in the Attic by Julie Otsuka – 129 pages
Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese – 667 pages
Dreams of Joy by Lisa See – 354 pages
A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry – 603 pages
The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy – 321 pages
The Hundred Secret Senses by Amy Tan – 358 pages
The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini – 372 pages

Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden – 530 pages
The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri – 291 pages
Peony in Love by Lisa See – 297 pages
The Piano Tuner by Daniel Mason – 317 pages
The Samurai's Garden by Gail Tsukiyama – 211 pages
The Sandcastle Girls by Chris Bohjalian – 299 pages
Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See – 269 pages
Stones for Ibarra by Harriet Doerr – 214 pages
A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini – 372 pages
Unaccustomed Earth by Jhumpa Lahiri – 333 pages
White Teeth by Zadie Smith – 448 pages
White Tiger by Aravind Adiga – 288 pages

Classic Fiction

As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner – 267 pages
The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath – 264 pages
The Call of the Wild by Jack London – 133 pages
Cannery Row by John Steinbeck – 196 pages
Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton – 99 pages
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald – 180 pages
The Heart is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers – 359 pages
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott – 461 pages
My Antonia by Willa Cather – 219 pages
Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier – 410 pages
Slaughterhouse-Five by Kurt Vonnegut – 275 pages
Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston – 286 pages
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith – 493 pages

Mystery

Burnt House by Faye Kellerman – 438 pages
Defending Jacob by William Landay – 435 pages
Devil in a Blue Dress by Walter Mosley – 263 pages
The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Steig Larsson – 590 pages

The Girl Who Played with Fire by Steig Larsson – 630 pages
Los Angeles Noir edited by Denise Hamilton – 348 pages
The Number One Ladies Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith – 235 pages
Turn of Mind by Alice LaPlante – 307 pages

Science Fiction

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury – 249 pages
Kindred by Octavia Butler – 287 pages
Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro – 288 pages

Children's and Young Adult Fiction

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie – 229 pages
American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang – 233 pages
The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak – 552 pages
Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card – 324 pages
The Fault in Our Stars by John Green – 318 pages
The Giver by Lois Lowry – 179 pages
The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman – 313 pages
The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins – 374 pages
Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs – 352 pages
Paper Towns by John Green -- 305 pages
The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky – 213 pages
Wonder by R.J. Palacio – 315 pages

Biography and Memoir

Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt – 363 pages
Autobiography of a Face by Lucy Grealy – 236 pages
Bossypants by Tina Fey – 275 pages
Cleopatra: A Life by Stacy Schiff – 368 pages
The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother by James McBride – 291 pages
Eat, Pray, Love by Elizabeth Gilbert – 334 pages
The End of Your Life Book Club by Will Schwalbe – 336 pages

Falling Leaves: The Memoir of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah – 278 pages
The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls – 288 pages
Honeymoon with My Brother by Franz Wisner – 274 pages
John Adams by David McCullough – 751 pages
The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch – 206 pages
Marley and Me by John Grogan – 291 pages
Mennonite in a Little Black Dress: A Memoir of Going Home by Rhoda Janzen – 241 pages
A Million Little Pieces by James Frey – 430 pages
My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomayor – 315 pages
My Life in France by Julia Child – 352 pages
Personal History by Katherine Graham – 642 pages
The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio by Terry Ryan – 351 pages
Running with Scissors by Augusten Burroughs – 315 pages
Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson – 630 pages
Tender at the Bone: Growing Up at the Table by Ruth Reichl – 282 pages
'Tis by Frank McCourt – 367 pages
Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand – 473 pages
The Water Is Wide by Pat Conroy – 294 pages
West with the Night by Beryl Markham – 293 pages
Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail by Cheryl Strayed – 315 pages
The Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion – 227 pages

Nonfiction

Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking by Malcolm Gladwell – 296 pages
The Botany of Desire: A Plant's Eye View of the World by Michael Pollan – 271 pages
The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics
by Daniel James Brown – 404 pages
A Civil Action by Jonathan Harr – 502 pages
The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic and Madness at the Fair that Changed America by Erik Larson – 447 pages
Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World by Vicki Myron – 297 pages
Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff by Rosemary Mahoney – 273 pages
Eats, Shoots & Leaves by Lynne Truss – 209 pages
Enrique's Journey by Sonia Nazario – 299 pages
Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal by Eric Schlosser – 356 pages
For All the Tea in China: How England Stole the World's Favorite Drink and Changed History by Sarah Rose – 259 pages

Galileo's Daughter by Dava Sobel – 420 pages

The Greatest Generation by Tom Brokaw – 412 pages

I Feel Bad About My Neck by Nora Ephron – 137 pages

The Happiness Project by Gretchen Rubin – 315 pages

The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom – 311 pages

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot – 369 pages

An Innocent Man by John Grisham – 360 pages

In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin by Erik Larson – 448 pages

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer – 207 pages

Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer – 332 pages

Me Talk Pretty One Day by David Sedaris – 272 pages

Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder – 322 pages

Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich – 230 pages

Nothing Daunted: The Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West by Dorothy Wickenden – 286 pages

102 Minutes: The Untold Story of the Fight to Survive Inside the Twin Towers by Jim Dwyer and Kevin Flynn – 322 pages

On Gold Mountain by Lisa See – 394 pages

The Orchid Thief by Susan Orlean – 296 pages

Outliers: The Story of Success by Malcolm Gladwell – 309 pages

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The Power of Habit by Charles Duhigg – 371 pages

The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran – 96 pages

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking by Susan Cain – 352 pages

Reading Lolita in Tehran by Azar Nafisi – 356 pages

Seabiscuit by Laura Hillenbrand – 399 pages

1776 by David McCullough – 386 pages

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down by Anne Fadiman – 341 pages

Stolen Lives: Twenty Years in a Desert Jail by Malika Oufkir – 293 pages

Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion by Gregory Boyle – 217 pages

Three Cups of Tea...One Man's Mission to Promote Peace One School at a Time by Greg Mortenson – 349 pages

The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference by Malcolm Gladwell – 301 pages

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom – 192 pages

Under the Banner of Heaven by Jon Krakauer – 399 pages

The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration by Isabel Wilkerson – 622 pages

Who Moved My Cheese? by Spencer Johnson – 95 pages

The Zookeeper's Wife by Diane Ackerman – 368 pages